

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol, operating between a secure "aggregator" data processor and at least one of "source-entity" data processor, wherein the "aggregator" and the "source-entity" processors are interconnected via an electronic data-communications topology, and the protocol includes the steps of:

A) on the side of the "aggregator" processor:

- (i) from a user interface--accepting a query against a plurality of the predetermined attributes and therewith forming a parameter list,
- (ii) via the topology--transmitting the parameter list to each of the "source-entity" processors,
- (iii) via the topology--receiving a respective file from each of the "source-entity" processors,
- (iv) aggregating the plurality of files into a data-warehouse,
- (iv) using the parameter list, extracting query relevant data from the data-warehouse,
- (vi) agglomerating the extract, and
- (vii) to a user interface--reporting the agglomerated extract; and

B) on the side of each processor of the at least one "source-entity" processors:

- (i) accumulating data-items wherein some of the data-items have privacy sensitive micro-data,
- (ii) organizing the data-items using the plurality of predetermined attributes,
- (iii) via the topology--receiving a parameter list from the "aggregator" processor,
- (iv) forming a file by "crunching together" the data-items according to the parameter list,
- (v) filtering out portions of the file which characterize details particular to less than a predetermined quantity of micro-data-specific data-items, and
- (vi) via the topology--transmitting the file to the "aggregator" processor.

2. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein transmitting the parameter list includes transmitting a sufficiently large list of identity disclosing specifics.

3. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein agglomerating the extract includes filtering out portions of the extract which characterize details particular to less than a predetermined quantity data-items.

4. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 3 wherein filtering out portions of the extract which characterize details particular to less than a

predetermined quantity data-items includes the predetermined quantity being selected from the list, ordinal number, percentage of instances in the data-warehouse, data instances outside of mean plus predetermined number of standard distribution units.

5. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein agglomerating the extract includes filtering out portions of the extract so that only identity-free micro-data remains.

6. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein accepting a query includes performing a preprocessing privacy check against a predetermined source-entity data-ensemble model.

7. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein "crunching together" the data-items includes joining data-items having a mutual micro-data-specific.

8. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein, selected from the list of sub-steps aggregating, extracting, agglomerating, accumulating, organizing, and crunching, at least one sub-step includes fuzzy matching.

9. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein filtering out portions of the file which characterize details particular to less than a predetermined quantity of micro-data-specific data-items includes selecting the predetermined quantity from the list, an ordinal number, a percentage of instances in the

data-warehouse, data instances outside of statistical mean-or-median plus-and/or-minus a predetermined number of standard deviation units.

10. (Original) The Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol according to claim 1 wherein accepting a query includes transforming the query into a standardized query--capable of resulting in a syndicated reporting of the agglomerated extract.

11. (Original) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for "aggregator" data processor functions in a Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol, said method steps including:

- (i) from a user interface--accepting a query against a plurality of the predetermined attributes and therewith forming a parameter list,
- (ii) via an electronic data-communications topology--transmitting the parameter list to at least one "source-entity" processors,
- (iii) via the topology--receiving a respective file from each of the "source-entity" processors,
- (iv) aggregating the plurality of files into a data-warehouse,
- (v) using the parameter list, extracting query relevant data from the data-warehouse,
- (vi) agglomerating the extract, and

(vii) to a user interface--reporting the agglomerated extract.

12. (Original) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for "source-entity" data processor functions in a Privacy Preserving Data-Mining Protocol, said method steps including:

(i) accumulating data-items wherein some of the data-items have privacy sensitive micro-data,

(ii) organizing the data-items using the plurality of predetermined attributes,

(iii) via an electronic data-communications topology--receiving a parameter list from an "aggregator" processor,

(iv) forming a file by "crunching together" the data-items according to the parameter list,

(v) filtering out portions of the file which characterize details particular to less than a predetermined quantity of micro-data-specific data-items,

(vi) via the topology--transmitting the file to the "aggregator" processor.

13. Canceled.